

## MINUTES

### Somerville Redevelopment Authority

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

(Virtual Meeting)

Software: GotoWebinar

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. C. 30A, s. 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this meeting of the Somerville Redevelopment Authority was conducted via remote participation.

Present from the Somerville Redevelopment Authority (SRA): Phil Ercolini (Chair), William Gage, Iwona Bonney, Ben Ewen-Campen, Patrick McCormick, and Emily Hedeman. Also present were Tom Galligani as Director of Economic Development, and Sunayana Thomas as Senior Economic Development Planner and staff to the SRA.

Phil Ercolini, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Open session commenced. A quorum was present. This meeting was video recorded.

#### **1. Approval of the February 17, 2021 meeting minutes.**

- Comments: Phil Ercolini proposed 1 correction: Page 3, first sentence, should be "states".
- Motion to Approve by Bill Gage Motion, seconded by Iwona Bonney.

Roll Call Vote:

Iwona Bonney, Yes

Ben Ewen-Campen, Yes

Bill Gage, Yes

Emily Hedeman, Yes

Patrick McCormick, Yes

Phil Ercolini, Yes

#### **2. Public Comment Period**

Sunayana Thomas explained that this is an effort to have public comment at the beginning of the meeting.

There were no public comments.

### **3. Winter Hill Urban Renewal Plan Update and report of the SRA and Council MOA subcommittee**

Ms. Hedeman provided a report on the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting between the SRA MOA Subcommittee and the City Council members. In attendance for the SRA were Emily Hedeman and Patrick McCormick. In attendance for the Council were Councilors White, Clingan, and Niedergang. SRA staff were represented by Tom Galligani, Sunayana Thomas, and Eileen McGettigan.

Comments and edits proposed by the City Councilors were reviewed and discussed. The SRA and City Council members explained the vision and intent of the MOA. Both sides agreed that finalizing the MOA should not be a source of delay for the Winter Hill Urban Renewal Plan, and that the Winter Hill community and community at large should be well served by the final document.

City Council suggestions captured in section 6 of the draft MOA included several initiatives that the SRA had already put into place, and led to further conversations about improving transparency of the SRA.

An updated draft with comments from Attorney McGettigan is not yet available. The subcommittee is seeking input on the best path forward. One option is for subcommittee to continue with an iterative process. Another option is for the SRA to call a special meeting to review an updated document when available.

Patrick McCormick: It was a positive discussion with more agreement than disagreement. The meeting was productive, and a final agreement is close.

Ben Ewen-Campen: Noted two things: 1) City Council Confirmation of Appointments Committee recommended Approval of Christine Stone. 2) Sought clarification of “orders of taking” section of MOU.

Emily Hedeman: Ms. McGettigan is best person to answer the taking question.

Bill Gage: Recommends letting subcommittee work out final details before bringing the final back to the Board.

Tom Galligani: Encouraged calling a special meeting to approve the final document once it is ready in order to move this along.

Phil Ercolini: Suggests Tentative date for a special meeting on March 31st at 5pm, Mr. Galligani to schedule.

### **4. Union Square Update**

Sunayana Thomas: No update

## **5. 90 Washington Street Update**

Sunayana Thomas: First community meeting for the public safety building will be held on March 31 at 6pm. SRA members are encouraged to join the meeting. There will be an overview of site selection, make up of the building committee, and what the intent of the usage and programing needs are.

Bill Gage: Have we heard anything about the court case?

Tom Galligani: No update on court case. He suggested paying close attention to how the city will be shaping a very significant public asset, the public safety building.

## **6. Assembly Square Update**

Sunayana Thomas: No update

## **7. Conflict of interest Training Recertification**

Tom Galligani: This will be sent shortly by email. Every two years all employees and board members must complete this recertification

## **8. Other Business**

Phil Ercolini: None

Sunayana Thomas: No public comments.

## **9. Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn by Bill Gage. Patrick McCormick seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Iwona Bonney, Yes

Ben Ewen-Campen, Yes

Bill Gage, Yes

Emily Hedeman, Yes

Patrick McCormick, Yes

Phil Ercolini, Yes